

The Oaks (Boyd House)
823 North Jefferson St.
Jackson
Hinds County
Mississippi

HABS No. MS-211

HABS
DEL,
25-JACK,
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
MISS,
25-JACK,
12-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE MISSISSIPPI	COUNTY HINDS	TOWN OR VICINITY JACKSON
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) OAKS, THE		HABS NO. MS-211
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE BOYD HOUSE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 823 North Jefferson Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) c. 1856 HABS Historian's Work Sheet	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)The Oaks is one of the four earliest private houses known to have survived in Jackson dating from the pre-Civil War period. The Oaks was built by James H. Boyd, a prominent citizen of Mississippi's capital city. He was elected Mayor of Jackson four times, served as Alderman and Justice of Peace.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)The Oaks is an example of a simple Greek Revival dwelling, typical of those built by prosperous but not wealthy citizens of the antebellum period.		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)Foundations are brick. Walls are of wood frame construction covered with clapboards and painted white. The floors are pine. Walls and ceiling are plastered and framed by simple, unmoulded base boards.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 46' by 60', 5 bays, 1 story, rectangular		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE A long, five bay gallery with plaster ceiling extends the full length of the facade and features square posts with molded capitals and bases. Above the posts is a plain, wide architrave. Two plastered chimneys are set directly behind the ridge of roof. A low, gabled roof of shingles extends the full width of the house, including the galleries.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Two rooms flank each side of a broad, central passage in the traditional double pile arrangement. Interior chimneys provide coal-burning fireplaces for three of the rooms. The mantels are simple Greek Revival.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES A wing and a shed were added to the rear in the twentieth century. Only slight alterations have been made. The cistern pavilion was constructed in the second half of the twentieth century and the circular dairy roof was put in place in 1973.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good. Headquarters and House Museum for the Mississippi Society of the Colonial Dames of America.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Exterior features cont. The side eaves are almost flush with the walls and are defined by a plain verge board. The front of the house is a simple box-cornice. A circular brick dairy and a circular cistern are located behind the main house. Louvered blinds are not original.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Data compiled by William C. Allen, Architectural historian under the direction of Elbert R. Hilliard, Director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. National Register Files.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Marion K. Schlefer, HABS		DATE 11 July 1984

"The Oaks"
823 North Jefferson Street
Jackson, Mississippi

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: That part of 5-acre Lot 7 North, in the city of Jackson, Mississippi, indicated on the map of said city made by H. C. Daniel in 1875, more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows: For a point of beginning, commence at a point on the west line of N. Jefferson Street 414.3 feet measured southerly along the west line of N. Jefferson Street from the intersection of the west line of N. Jefferson Street with the south line of Boyd Street as both streets are now laid out and improved, said point of beginning being the northeast corner of the McGill property hereby conveyed which is known as the Mary McGill property; thence run southerly along the west line of N. Jefferson Street for a distance of 151.3 feet to the Spann property; thence westerly along the North line of the Spann property 157 feet, more or less, to the southeast corner of that certain property sold by Miss Mary E. McGill and Richard F. McGill to James T. Canizaro on or about July 25, 1945; thence run in a northerly direction along the East line of the Canizaro property 49.92 feet to a point; thence run westwardly along the Canizaro property for 7 feet to a point; thence northwardly along the East line of the Canizaro property and along the East line of the J. J. Neal property for 106 feet more or less to the northeast corner of said J. J. Neal property and the northwest corner of the lands hereby conveyed; thence easterly in a straight line 163 feet more or less, to the point of beginning on N. Jefferson Street.

CHAIN OF TITLE

Date	Reference	Description
April 12, 1847	DB 18-579	William Clark, State Treasurer and James Mathews, Auditor of Public Accounts - agents of the Jackson town lot fund - to George Fern. Lot 7N (5 acres), Lot 62 (69/100 acre), Lot 59 (4 30/100 acre). Consideration \$261.
June 1, 1853	DB 22-395	George Fern to Mrs. Eliza Boyd. Four acres in Lot 7. Consideration \$800.
January 24, 1885	DB 14-189	Mrs. Eliza Boyd to Mrs. Mary McGill. Consideration \$1,300.
November 7, 1960	DB 1252-246	Fulton Thompson, Guardian of the Estate of Mary McGill to The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Mississippi. Consideration \$20,000.